

Message Text

PAGE 01 SAIGON 10981 191349 Z

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ACTION EA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 10981

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PINT PINT MILI VS

SUBJECT: DAILY MR 3 SITREP-19 JUNE 1973

FOL SENT ACTION SAIGON FM BIEN HOA AND RPTD FOR YOUR INFO QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L BIEN HOA 0212

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT MILI VS

SUBJ: DAILY MR 3 SITREP - 19 JUNE 1973

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED AT RELATIVELY LOW LEVEL IN 24 HOURS ENDING 0800 JUNE 19, BUT WAS CONCENTRATED MAINLY IN TAY NINH AND IN PHUOC TUY - BINH TUY. THERE WERE 15 INCIDENTS, INCLUDING SIX ATTACKS BY FIRE (TWO OVER 20 ROUNDS), SIX GROUND CONTACTS, ONE SMALL ARMS HARRASSMENT, AND THREE MININGS. ONE RVNAF WAS REPORTED KILLED AND EIGHT WOUNDED, WHILE VC/ NVA LOSSES WERE 11 KILLED, SOME EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES CAPTURED, AND TWO SOUTHERN VC CADRE RALLIED.

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PAGE 02 SAIGON 10981 191349 Z

WM IN TAY NINH, UNKNOWN SIZE VC/ NVA FORCE ATTACKED 88 TH PF PLATOON FOLLOWING 40- ROUND MORTAR BARRAGE 3 KM SE KHIEM HANH DISTRICT SEAT. COMMUNISTS WERE DRIVEN OFF, LEAVING BEHIND FIVE KIA AND TWO INDIVIDUAL WEAPONS CAPTURED. ANOTHER VC/ NVA

GROUND ATTACK AGAINST 26 TH PF PLATOON 3 KMS N HIEU THIEN DISTRICT SEAT WAS REPULSED WITHOUT CASUALTIES. LIGHT MORTAR ATTACK AGAINST 84 TH PF PLATOON 4 KM N HIEU THIEN CAUSED NO CASUALTIES. GROUND ATTACK IN 81 ST PF PLATOON 3 KM NE OF HIEU THIEN CAUSED THREE PF WOUNDED AND ONE VC KIA. ANOTHER GROUND ATTACK ON 159 TH PF PLATOON 7 KM SW OF HIEU THIEN WAS DRIVEN OFF WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS.

3. IN PHUOC TUY, 33 RD PF PLATOON TOOK 50 MORTAR ROUNDS 8 KM SW DAT DO DISTRICT SEAT WHICH CAUSED NO CASUALTIES. RF UNITS TO NE OF DAT DO RECEIVED LIGHT ATTACKS BY FIRE WHICH WOUNDED THREE. CONSUL IN BA RIA REPORTED MID- AFTERNOON JUNE 18 THAT RF COMPANY REMAINS IN UNINHABITED LONG PHUOC VILLAGE AREA IN LONG LE DISTRICT, ABOUT ONE KM AWAY FROM TWO VC LOCAL FORCE COMPANIES. TWO MAIN FORCE COMMUNIST BATTALIONS SAID TO BE WITHIN TWO HOURS MARCH. BUT NO FIGHTING IN LONG PHUOC AS OF TIME OF CALL.

4. MR 3 G-2 WOULD HAVE US BELIEVE THAT AN UNKNOWN SIZE COMMUNIST FORCE ATTACKED 369 TH RF COMPANY 20 KM S OF TAN LINH DISTRICT SEAT, BINH TUY, BUT THE ATTACK WAS DRIVEN OFF WITHOUT RF CASUALTIES WHILE COMMUNISTS LOST FIVE KIA, ONE 61 MM MORTAR AND 11 ROUNDS OF AMMO, ONE AK-47, AND 40 KILOS OF RICE. COMMENT: THIS SOUNDS LIKE AN RF ATTACK ON A COMMUNIST BASE AREA. END COMMENT.

5. THERE WAS A COMMUNIST GROUND PROBE AGAINST 359 TH RF COMPANY 7 KMS S OF NHON TRACH DISTRICT SEAT, BIEN HOA, WHICH WAS DRIVEN OFF WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. COMMUNIST MINES KILLED ONE AND WOUNDED THREE RVNAF DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.

6. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS INDICATE THAT AT LEAST TEN " HIGH LEVEL" VC CADRE HAVE INFILTRATED INTO GO VAP, CU CHI AND TRANG BANG DISTRICT AREAS TO CONDUCT PROPAGANDA AND PROSELYTING SESSIONS IN PREPARATION FOR FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS. IN ADDITION, AN INFLUX OF TRAVELERS FROM SAIGON, THOUGHT TO BE LEGAL CADRE, HAVE COME INTO THESE AREAS REPORTEDLY TO VISIT RELATIVES
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SAIGON 10981 191349 Z

IN VC RANKS.

7. BINH DUONG RRO REPORTS AFTERNOON JUNE 18 THAT HE HEARD 150 ROUNDS OF OUTGOING ARTILLERY FIRE MORNING JUNE 17, BUT PROVINCE OFFICIALS AND 5 TH DIVISION STAFF WOULD' T TELL HIM WHAT IT IS. INTERPROVINCIAL HIGHWAY 1- A IS BEING KEPT OPEN BY ARMED PERSONNEL CARRIERS POSTED FREQUENTLY ALONG THE MORE THREATENED STRETCHES OF THE ROAD. A WOMAN WHO TRAVELED THE ROAD ON JUNE 17 SAW " MANY" COMMUNIST AND ARVN BODIES LYING ALONG THE ROAD, AND THERE IS A RUMOR IN PHU CUONG THAT AN ENTIRE ARVN APC TROOP WAS WIPED OUT IN THE BATTLE.

8. BINH DUONG PROVINCE CHIEF COL. TRAN VAN CUA HAS VIRTUALLY

SHUT OFF AMERICAN ACCESS TO HIS PROVINCE AND SECTOR STAFFS. A XENOPHOBIC ANTI- COMMUNIST, CUA BEGAN RESTRICTING ACCESS SOON AFTER THE CEASE- FIRE AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED, WHEN HE SAW THAT CORDS PERSONNEL NO LONGER HAD ANY MATERIAL SUPPORT TO OFFER HIM, AND HE HAS BECOME EVEN MORE ALOOF SINCE THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. THOSE OFFICERS WHO WILL TALK SPECULATE THAT CUA IS ALSO AFRAID THAT THE AMERICANS WILL DISCOVER HIS CORRUPTION, BUT IN THE BINH DUONG RRO' S JUDGEMENT CUA IS NO WORSE IN THIS RESPECT THAN MOST PROVINCE CHIEFS.

9. GVN TPJMC V REPRESENTATIVE WAS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO TELL CONSUL JUNE 18 WHAT NEW INSTRUCTIONS HE HAD RECEIVED AT A SAIGON MEETING OF GVN TPJMC REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES. BUT GENERALLY HE DID NOT EXUDE ANY NEW HOPE FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE' S TPJMC PROVISIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, HE SAID THE GVN HAD HAD THE PRG REGIONAL AND TEAM SITES READY SINCE JANUARY, BUT THE COMMUNIQUE' S REFERENCE TO OTHER POSSIBLE SITES WOULD PROVINCE THE PRG WITH YET ANOTHER PRETEXT TO DELAY DEPLOYMENT WHILE NEGOTIATING ON THE LOCATIONS OF THE SITES.

10. GVN REP EXPLAINED GVN POSITION ON MEETINGS OF OPPOSING LOCAL COMMANDERS AS ONE OF CONCERN WITH PROPER SEQUENCE-- THAT IS, HIGH- RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS SHOULD FIRST MEET WITH COUNTER- PARTS TO ARRANGE BROAD OUTLINES OF MODALITIES FOR AVOIDING CLASHES OF OPPOSING FORCES, WHICH COULD THEN BE WORKED OUT IN DETAIL AT LOWER LEVEL, IF NECESSARY, UNDER PROPER GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION FROM HIGHER LEVELS AND WITH PARTICIPATION OF TPJMC.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 SAIGON 10981 191349 Z

11. GVN REP CLAIMED THAT POST- COMMUNIQUE COMPLAINTS OF PRG VIOLATIONS ARE ALREADY STARTING TO PILE UP ON HIS DESK -- ABOUT FOUR OR FIVE A DAY -- FOR FORWARDING TO ICCS V. HE CLAIMED GVN IS STRICTLY OBSERVING CEASE- FIRE, BUT DID NOT DIRECTLY DENY THAT GVN HAD SHELLLED PRG FORCES IN CU CHI AFTER THE COMMUNIQUE, INSTEAD CITING PRE- COMMUNIQUE PRG SHOOT- DOWN OF TWO GVN HELICOPTERS IN THAT AREA.

12. ICCS V CANDEL TOLD CONSUL EVENING JUNE 18 THAT RETURN OF ICCS HELICOPTERS FROM AN LOC, WHERE THEY HAVE REMAINED SINCE JUNE 17 AWAITING PRG GUARANTEES TO AVIOD ANOTHER SHOOTING INCIDENT, IS NOW SCHEDULED FOR 1600 TODAY. WE UNDER- STAND THAT CBS NEWS TEAM ALONG ON JUNE 16 FLIGHT GOT EXCELLENT PICTURES OF HUNGEL V CHIEF LTC VARGA SCRAMBLING FOR COVER WHEN HELICOPTER TOOK GROUND FIRE. HUNGARIANS, WHO COMPLAINED AT LENGTH TO CONSULS JUNE 16 ABOUT BAD PRESS THEIR ICCS PERFORMANCE HAS RECEIVED, SHOULD BE EVEN UNHAPPIER WHEN THIS FLICKERS ACROSS THE SCREEN. WALKINSHAW UNQUOTE

WHITEHOUSE

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